

We will soon enter into our third century as a nation.

Whether we build in that third century a civilization we can be proud of depends on whether we can arrive at a common conception of what that civilization might stand for or what it might do superbly well.

It really depends on us and our children. The mantle of leadership has fallen on our shoulders. So let's make this event more than just a dinner and keynote speech, let's allow it to be the first building block in overcoming this barrier of racism.

Thank you.●

HONORING RICH STEELE OF RICHLAND, WA

● Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, on November 17, 1995, Richard Steele of Richland, WA, was presented with an Environmental Hero Award by the Washington Environmental Council for spearheading the effort to save the Hanford Reach, the last free-flowing stretch of the Columbia River. I prepared the following statement for the event and ask that it be printed in the RECORD.

Rich Steele is a man with a mission.

In fact, Rich Steele is something of a missionary in the crusade to protect the Hanford Reach—the last free-flowing stretch of the Columbia River and a sanctuary for one of the strongest salmon runs left in the Northwest.

Rich has labored for 30 years to protect the Reach. But he is not your average environmentalist. Rich was brought up the hard way in the Tri-Cities; worked construction and other jobs until joining the workforce at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, where he became one of the site's top technicians. As an avid hunter and fisher, Rich came to love the River and became its chief advocate.

His call to this mission came in the mid-sixties, when the Reach was threatened by the Ben Franklin Dam proposal. Rich organized the Columbia River Conservation League in 1967, coordinating successful local opposition to the dam and its powerful backers. He revived the CRCL in the 1980s to block a dredging proposal for the Reach. All the while, Rich has preached the virtues of the Reach—its clear waters and fabulously productive spawning areas, its rich human history, its abundant wildlife, its majestic White Bluffs and soul-restoring solitude.

On his own time and at considerable personal expense, Rich has led hundreds of pilgrimages down the Reach, making converts among local citizens, the national media, and elected officials. After touring the Reach with Rich last summer, I am among those who believe it deserves the highest level of permanent protection we can give it.

Working closely with other long-time advocates like Jack de Yonge, a dedicated group of local conservationists, and the Nature Conservancy, Rich has helped to popularize the Reach to the point that Wild and Scenic River designation enjoys strong support in the Tri-Cities. Despite opposition from some local politicians, we are developing legislation to protect the Reach that I believe will have a good chance of enactment—perhaps even in this Congress.

None of this would be possible without Rich Steele's inspired leadership, passionate activism, and three decades of hard work. Rich has devoted his life to saving the Reach, and it is fitting that he be honored as an environmental hero. ●

CONGRATULATIONS TO STEPHEN ORLOFSKY ON HIS CONFIRMA- TION TO BE A JUDGE ON THE FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT OF NEW JERSEY

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, on February 5, 1996, Steve Orlofsky will take the oath of office as a Federal District Court Judge for the District of New Jersey.

I had the high honor and privilege of recommending Mr. Orlofsky to President Clinton last year, and I want to take just a few moments of the Senate's time to explain why I am so proud of him, and why I know he will make such an outstanding judge.

Mr. President, let me begin by noting that when Steve is sworn in, he will replace Judge John R. Gerry on the bench. Judge Gerry was revered in New Jersey, and was widely known as a distinguished legal scholar, skilled administrator, and a compassionate, thoughtful judge. He was dedicated to dispensing justice, and he had a reputation for always acting with great fairness.

I mention this because Judge Gerry was Steve Orlofsky's mentor and role model when Steve served as a U.S. magistrate in his court. They maintained a close relationship over the years, even after Steve went into private practice.

Mr. President, I spoke with Judge Gerry shortly before his death, and he had one request: that I recommend Steve to replace him on the New Jersey District bench.

Judge Gerry's shoes will be hard to fill, but I am confident that Steve Orlofsky will be a worthy successor.

Mr. President, Steve Orlofsky is a man of integrity, with a commitment to justice and the law, a judicious temperament, a strong intellect and proven legal skills.

He meets the highest standards of excellence and will enhance the quality of justice in New Jersey.

In reviewing his candidacy, the American Bar Association unanimously conferred Steve with a "well qualified" rating—the highest rating possible. This consensus speaks to his superb qualifications.

Steve has been a widely respected attorney in private practice, and he has extensive experience in Federal litigation. He previously served as a magistrate judge in the New Jersey Federal District Court from 1976 to 1980. He also has served in leadership roles in his county and State bar associations, and has served his community by providing pro bono legal services.

In addition, he has published in legal journals and served as a lecturer in ongoing legal education courses.

Mr. President, Steve Orlofsky has the capacity to be an outstanding Federal judge not only because of his thorough knowledge of the law, but also because of his commitment to justice. He will offer more than extensive legal experience. He has good judgment, solid values, and sensitivity to moral and ethical issues.

Steve Orlofsky has all of the personal attributes and professional qualifications one could wish for in a judge, and then some.

So, Mr. President, I want to again congratulate Steve on his appointment, and wish him all the best in his new position. I am very proud to have recommended him to President Clinton. I hope he will serve on our district court for many years. I know he will serve with distinction, dispensing justice to each person who appears before him with compassion, fairness, and wisdom.●

SENIOR CITIZENS HOUSING SAFETY ACT

● Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, on January 23, 1996, the Senate passed S. 1494, a bill extending several housing programs through October 1, 1996. I am pleased the Senate included in this bill language I developed in my legislation, S. 247, the Senior Citizens Safety Act of 1995. I am hopeful that the President will match the tough anti-crime rhetoric conveyed in his State of the Union Address, and sign this legislation when it arrives on his desk.

This legislation will end the terror that, unfortunately, runs rampant throughout many elderly housing projects. It offers both local public housing facilities [PHA] and local property owners with the power to screen out and evict from public and assisted housing persons who illegally use drugs and whose abuse of alcohol is a risk to other tenants.

In my home State of New Hampshire, most people are still afforded the luxury of not having to lock their front doors before turning in for the evening. However, many elderly residents of public housing facilities in my State and across America have been forced to not only lock their front doors, but are literally being held prisoner in their own homes. I believe this is outrageous. I have received numerous complaints from residents of elderly housing facilities throughout New Hampshire who are worried about their personal safety in housing specifically reserved for them.

While community policing has gone a long way toward making many of America's neighborhoods safe for its elderly residents. No longer will people residing in public housing facilities be allowed to harass, shake down, or intimidate their elderly neighbors. Our elderly population remains vulnerable, and I am pleased the Senate has taken this action which will help protect them.

Our housing laws must protect elderly residents. Currently, non-elderly persons, considered disabled because of past drug and alcohol abuse problems, are eligible to live in housing designated for the elderly. This mixing of populations may have filled up the housing projects across the country, but it has opened a Pandora's box of trouble. Simply put, Young, recovering